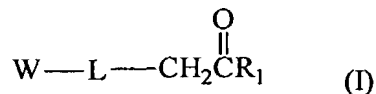


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) Functionalized compound of general formula (I) :



in which:

W represents a nucleotide analog,

L represents a linker arm comprising at least four atoms,

R₁ represents a linear or branched alkyl chain.

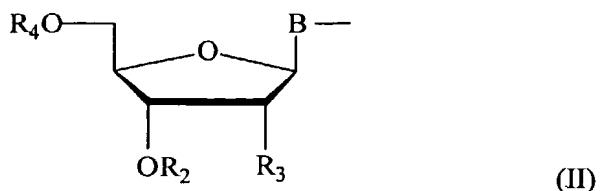
2. (Original) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that R₁ represents an alkyl chain having at most 6 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) Compound according to claim 2, characterized in that R₁ represents a methyl group.

4. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that L comprises at least eight atoms.

5. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that L is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain, optionally interrupted by at least one function chosen from amine, amide and oxy functions.

6. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that W corresponds to the general formula (II)



in which:

B represents a nitrogen-containing base,

R₂ represents H or a protective group,

R₃ represents H, F, OH, SH, NH₂, OCH₃ or OR₅ in which R₅ represents a protective group or an alkyl chain, and

R₄ represents an H radical, a protective group or a mono-, di- or triphosphate group,

W being attached to L via B.

7. (Original) Compound according to claim 6, characterized in that the nitrogen-containing base is cytosine, uracil or adenine.

8. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 6, characterized in that R₂ is an H, R₃ is an OH group and R₄ is a triphosphate group.

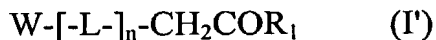
9. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 6, characterized in that R₂ is a 2-cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidite group and R₃ is H or OR₅ in which R₅ is a protective group used in oligoribonucleotide synthesis and R₄ is a 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl group.

10. (Previously Presented) Functionalized polynucleotide comprising at least one functionalized compound according to claim 1.

11. (Original) Functionalized polynucleotide according to claim 10, characterized in that this polynucleotide is prepared by the chemical and/or enzymatic route.

12. (Original) Functionalized polynucleotide according to claim 11, characterized in that this polynucleotide is prepared using an enzymatic amplification reaction.

13. (Currently Amended) Labeled functionalized polynucleotide, characterized in that it comprises at least one functionalized compound of general formula (I):



in which:

W represents a nucleotide analog,

L represents a linker arm comprising at least four atoms,

n represents an index equal to 0 or 1, and

R₁ represents a linear or branched alkyl chain,

the alkyl ketone group of said functionalized compound ~~having interacted with~~
being attached to a labeling reagent.

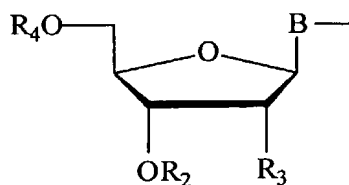
14. (Original) Polynucleotide according to claim 13, characterized in that R₁ represents an alkyl chain having at most 6 carbon atoms.

15. (Original) Polynucleotide according to claim 14, characterized in that R₁ represents a methyl group.

16. (Previously Presented) Polynucleotide according to claim 13, characterized in that L comprises at least eight atoms.

17. (Previously Presented) Polynucleotide according to claim 13, characterized in that L is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain, optionally interrupted by at least one function chosen from amine, amide and oxy functions.

18. (Currently Amended) Polynucleotide according to claim 13, characterized in that W corresponds to the general formula (II)



(II)

in which:

B represents a nitrogen-containing base,

R₂ represents H or a protective group,

R₃ represents H, F, OH, SH, NH₂, OCH₃ or OR₅ in which R₅ represents a protective group or an alkyl chain, and

R₄ represents an H radical, a protective group or a mono-, di- or triphosphate group,

W being attached to L via B.

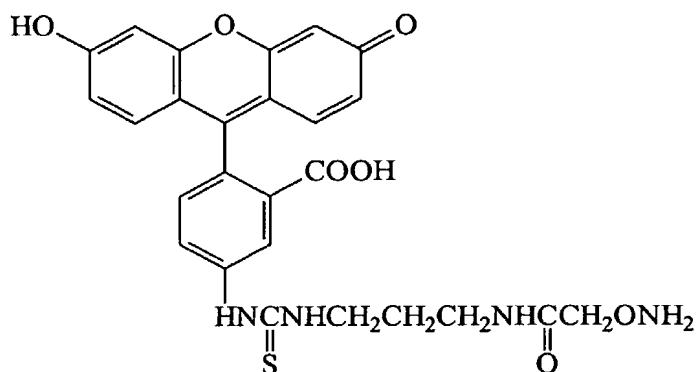
19. (Original) Polynucleotide according to claim 18, characterized in that the nitrogen-containing base is cytosine, uracil or adenine.

20. (Previously Presented) Polynucleotide according to claim 18, characterized in that R₂ is an H, R₃ is an OH group and R₄ is a triphosphate group.

21. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 18, characterized in that R₂ is a 2-cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidite group and R₃ is H or OR₅ in which R₅ is a protective group used in oligoribonucleotide synthesis and R₄ is a 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl group.

22. (Previously Presented) Polynucleotide according to claim 13, characterized in that the labeling reagent comprises a hydrazine or alkoxyamine function.

23. (Currently Amended) Polynucleotide according to claim 22, characterized in that the labeling reagent is:



24. (Previously Presented) Method for detecting a target nucleic acid, characterized in that this target nucleic acid is brought into contact with at least one functionalized nucleotide as defined in claim 13, in the presence of elements and under conditions required for producing a polynucleotide, so as to produce a functionalized polynucleotide; the polynucleotide obtained is labeled with a labeling reagent; and then said labeled polynucleotide is detected.

25. (Original) Method according to claim 24, characterized in that the functionalized polynucleotide is obtained using an enzymatic amplification reaction.

26. (Previously Presented) Method for detecting a target nucleic acid, characterized in that this target nucleic acid is brought into contact with a functionalized polynucleotide according to claim 10; the labeling reagent is reacted; and the presence of the target nucleic acid is detected.

27. (Previously Presented) Method for detecting a target nucleic acid, characterized in that a labeled polynucleotide according to claim 13 is available for use, this

target nucleic acid is brought into contact with the labeled polynucleotide; and the presence of the target nucleic acid is detected.

28. (New) Compound according to claim 1, wherein L is attached to W at a nitrogen-containing base of said nucleotide analog.